

T-Shirt Painting

Description:

Children will paint the front of a T-shirt using fabric paint.

Materials:

white T-shirt, fabric paints, water and containers, paintbrush, cereal box cardboard

Preparation:

You can buy fabric paint at most craft stores. Buy a variety of colors and, if your child wishes, glitter paints. Also buy a plain white T-shirt in your child's size.



Standards: 1 and 3

Concepts: Medium, texture, and color

Level: Pre K-3

Procedure:

Before your child paints the T-shirt, slip a piece of cardboard (or a thick sheet of paper) inside so the paint will not be transferred to the back of the shirt. Your child can paint the T-shirt by using a paintbrush and/or by squirting paint right out of the fabric paint bottles. Fabric painting takes a little getting used to, so it is best to start with simple shapes. You might want to suggest a theme—such as an underwater scene with fish and bubbles or a night sky scene with stars and the moon. Or simply let your child enjoy exploring color and line. The key is to keep it simple and encourage your child to have fun.

Extension:

Take an old bedsheet and work with your child to create a flag or a family blanket using fabric paint. Get more family members involved and create a real heirloom.

Just for Kids:

Today you are going to have fun making art you can wear. Draw your idea on paper first or paint directly on your T-shirt. (Put a piece of cardboard inside the shirt to keep paint from staining the back of the shirt.) You can paint anything you like on the T-shirt—fish, stars, or even happy faces. Choose your favorite colors and have fun. When your shirt is dry, squeeze some paint directly from the bottle to make an outline around your shapes. This creates texture by making a raised line.

